

Ipswich Agricultural Commission

Minutes of February 3, 2016

Members attending: Cathy Chadwick, Jay Stanbury, Ed White, Cole Desmond, Royce Knowlton, and Eric Galicki.

Members absent: Kelly Jacklin & Christine Sandulli (alternates) absent with notice.

Nonmembers attending: Norm Swanson, Giselle _____ & Sue Otis , Guest speaker, Laura Sapienza-Grabski, President, Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions (MAAC)

The Meeting was called to order by Jay Stanbury, Chair at 7:00pm with a quorum present

Citizen's Queries: None

Minutes: The minutes from the December 2, 2015 and January 6, 2016 were approved.

Motion: White moved to accept the two sets of minutes as written, Knowlton seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Laura Sapienza-Grabski was introduced and welcomed. Laura is from Boxford and is president of the Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions (MAAC). Highlights of her presentation included issues experienced by many AGCOMs across the state including Board of Health issues as well as with Conservation Commissions. Farmers Markets, regulations governing farming in the wetlands and exemptions for farmers were touched on. She suggested that we invite her group to present to the Commission and other Ipswich Town Boards at a future meeting. Laura also talked about Farmers Market regulation and other pending legislation that would grant to the AG COM more than their current advisory role. Her goals as president of MAAC include Keeping MA farms viable so that communities like ours can develop food sustainability and finding ways in which to stimulate agriculture in our local communities. She talked further about various related initiatives.

Laura invited the Commission to become more active in the Mass Farm Bureau and said that the Bureau offers one AG COM membership to each Commission.

ACTION: Follow up with the Commission & ask for a member to fill this membership.

She invited us to attend the following events:

MFB Legislative Breakfast, Thursday, March 24th at the Topsfield Fairgrounds RSVP to Laura.

AG Day at the Statehouse, Tuesday, April 5th starting at 9am.

MAAC Annual Meeting, Saturday, February 27th starting at 9am in Marlborough. Two current sessions will be offered so she suggested that two representative attend.

We discovered that the Ipswich AG COM application to be a member of MAAC had not been received.

MOTION: White moved that the AG COM join the MACC, Desmond seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura suggested that Cole could be featured by MAAC as the youngest AG COM member and asked that we follow up with her on that.

ACTION: Contact Laura regarding above request.

Meeting calendar for 2016: Representative Brad Hill and Senator Bruce Tarr accepted our invitation to speak at our meeting on Wednesday April 6th. There was brief discussion around having ICAM record the meeting and how to do outreach and invite other Town Boards or officials.

The Beekeeper for the presentation at the March meeting has not been confirmed.

ACTION: Chadwick will continue to follow up on that.

Other Business: Desmond informed the Commission about an Order of Conditions that he received from the CONCOM. The Board offered to review it and send representatives with him to the next meeting on Wednesday February. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chadwick moved to adjourn, White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Chadwick

Member, Ipswich Agricultural Commission

Approved on March 2, 2016.